

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /086 W  
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R 021226Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8814

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN NY

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 4017

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, FR, FT, ET, SO, US

SUBJECT: ETHIOPIAN-FRENCH-TFAI RELATIONS: AN ETHIOPIAN VIEW

REF: ADDIS ABABA 4008

1. IN A CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF APRIL 1, FITIGU TADESSE, ETHIOPIAN CONGEN IN DJIBOUTI WITH RANK OF AMBASSADOR, RE-VIEWED ETHIOPIAN-FRENCH-TFAI RELATIONS. THE PONCET VISIT TO ADDIS, FITIFU SAID, WENT WELL (CF REFTTEL), BUT HE WORRIED THAT FRANCE DID NOT HAVE THE WILLPOWER TO WITHSTAND DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL PRESSURES TO HAND THE TFAI OVER TO THE SOMALIS.

2. POLICY DISAGREEMENTS EXIST BETWEEN THE QUAI AND THE  
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OVERSEAS MINISTRY WITH THE FORMER PRESSING FOR MORE AC-

COMMODATION OF SOMALIA. THE PROBLEM, FITIGU SAID, WAS THE QUAI'S BELIEF THAT SOMALIS OUTNUMBER AFARS IN THE TERRITORY. COMMENT: THIS IS PROBABLY TRUE. END COMMENT. THUS, THE QUAI BELIEVES SOMALIS WILL CONTROL THE POST-INDEPENDENT GOVERNMENT WHICH WILL THEN OPT FOR ANSCHLUSS WITH SOMALIA. FITIGU, ON THE OTHER HAND, CONTENTS THAT THE AFAR WHO INHABIT THREE-QUARTERS OF THE TERRITORY MUST NOT BE FORGOTTEN. HE BLAMES THE FRENCH FOR NOT MAKING A STRONG ENOUGH EFFORT TO BRING ALI AREF AND OPPOSITION LEADER HASSAN GOULED TOGETHER. FITIGU SAID THAT HE WAS WORKING HARD TO ARRANGE AN ACCOMMODATION BETWEEN BOTH POLITICIANS.

3. FITIGU STATED THAT THE FRENCH HAD WISHED TO HOLD AN INDEPENDENCE REFERENDUM IN JULY TO HEAD OFF POSSIBLE CRITICISM AT THE MAURITIUS OAU SUMMIT. ALI AREF, HOWEVER, WANTED MORE TIME TO BUILD SUPPORT, SO SEPTEMBER IS THE GENERALLY PROPOSED REFERENDUM DATE. FITIGU, HOWEVER, BELIEVES THIS WILL SLIP TO NOVEMBER.

4. AS HE HAS IN THE PAST, FITIGU EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT WESTERN POWERS KNOW AND CARE NOTHING ABOUT DJIBOUTI AND "WOULD LOSE IT TO THE SOMALIS AND THUS TO THE USSR." EMBOFF REPLIED THAT THE US, AT LEAST, WAS THOROUGHLY AWARE OF DJIBOUTI'S IMPORTANCE AND WAS WATCHING EVENTS THERE WITH INTEREST.  
HUMMEL

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## Message Attributes

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